

of a 3-year demonstration project in 26 states, our legislation provides for patient-centered health care directed by physicians and nurse practitioners working as part of a team of caregivers qualified to deliver quality health services for this specific Medicare patient group. The Independence at Home program is designed to fund better health care and improved health care technology through savings it achieves, using an innovative health care delivery model to permit the growing number of Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible and to receive care in a setting that is preferred by the beneficiary involved and the family of such beneficiary.

In addition to delivering holistic, preventive care that enables patients to remain in their own homes, the Independence at Home demonstration projects hold providers accountable for quality outcomes, patient satisfaction, and a mandatory minimum 5 percent savings on an annual basis compared to Medicare costs that would have been incurred if the beneficiary had not participated in the demonstration project. Our bill generates these savings by providing comprehensive and coordinated care to the highest cost Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions, reducing duplicative and unnecessary services and avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits. As demonstrated by the Veterans Administration and many other existing programs, the Independence at Home Act has the potential both to promote quality, effective care and significantly reduce costs.

Our bill has been endorsed by the American Academy of Home Care Physicians; AARP; the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; the National Family Caregivers Association; the Family Caregiver Alliance/National Center on Caregiving; the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging; the Maryland-National Capital Home Care Association; the Visiting Nurse Associations of America; and Intel Corp.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to move this important legislation.

REAL SEX ED WEEK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, our government has spent \$1.5 billion in what is a failed policy for our Nation's children. Our investment in abstinence-only education has failed in giving our teenagers the medically accurate, life-saving information about birth control and sexually transmitted infections they need to make informed decisions. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one out of every four teenage girls in the United States is infected with a sexually transmitted disease and 40 percent of women will get pregnant before they reach 20 years of age. The facts confirm what many of us here in Congress have been saying for years, abstinence-only programs do not work.

This is a public health concern and we must reject funding for abstinence-only programs they are ideologically driven and are wishful

thinking. Citizens in my district are demanding comprehensive sex education to keep our youth healthy and safe. A majority of voters in nearly every demographic category strongly support comprehensive sex education and want public schools to teach it, including 78 percent of Catholics.

Congress must put an end to ineffective programs that only cover abstinence until marriage and start putting our money where it works: into comprehensive sex education. Our next generation is depending on us for accurate, lifesaving information, and it's time we gave it to them.

IN HONOR OF JOHN LAIRD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a truly remarkable public servant. Assemblymember John Laird, who has represented the coastal portions of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties in the California legislature for the last 6 years, will leave the legislature at the end of this current term as a result of term limits. I know I speak for the whole House, particularly my colleagues from the California delegation, in extending our gratitude and admiration to John for his Assembly service.

In 2002, John was first elected to represent the 27th Assembly District, which I represented during my tenure in the Assembly. His constituents, including me, returned him to the Assembly in 2004 and 2006 by overwhelming margins. Once in office, John quickly gained a reputation as a quick study of complex policy matters and a member who works with just about anybody in the Capitol. At the start of his second term in 2004, Mr. Laird joined the Assembly leadership team as chair of the Budget Committee, a position to which he won reappointment to in December 2006. As budget Chair, John was a key figure in working with the Governor and other legislative leaders in crafting the State's annual budget. Sometimes those other parties went along with John and the budget came in on time. Other times, those other parties departed from John's lead and delayed the budget's adoption. In each of these budgets, John left his stamp on the lives of Californians by fighting for reduced community college fees, K-12 education, and funding for transportation, park maintenance and foster care.

During Mr. Laird's tenure, he authored a wide range of bills that were signed into law—to establish the landmark Sierra Nevada Conservancy, restore community college health services, and to expand and clarify State civil rights protections. In the 2006 session, he successfully authored bills to provide new protections for sea otters, help build a new veterans cemetery at the former Fort Ord, provide pay increases for park rangers and fish and game wardens, and support local affordable housing trusts.

Raised in Vallejo and educated in Vallejo public schools, Mr. Laird's parents both were educators. They bequeathed to John a deep respect for public service and a passion for the Chicago Cubs. He graduated from UCSC's Adlai Stevenson College. He served on the

congressional district staff of Congressman Jerome Waldie, was an analyst for the Santa Cruz County Administrative Officer, and was Executive Director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project.

In 1981, Mr. Laird was elected to a seat on the Santa Cruz City Council where he served until 1990. He was elected by the City Council to one-year mayor's terms in 1983 and 1987, becoming one of the first openly gay mayors in the United States. He served as an elected member of the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees from 1994 to his election to the Assembly in 2002. Thanks to the recent landmark decision by the California Supreme Court, John was able to marry his longtime partner John Flores.

Madam Speaker, I can think of no better argument against California's legislative term limits than John's leadership and record. On behalf of the House, I want to wish John and his husband every happiness and urge him to continue his great record of service.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH CASON

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to mourn the passing of a great American. Keith Cason was an example of a true American family man. He grew up in Fairmont City and moved to the Caseyville area to raise his family. He always had a smile on his face and always set a good example of what we strive to be. He was full of life and energy and enjoyed attending church on Sundays with his father.

Tragically, Keith was lost in an automobile accident in St. Louis on July 15 of this year. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Mary, his sons Ryan and Craig, his sisters Kena and Karen, his father Charles and all those who mourn at this time for Keith. He devoted his life to his family and his country, and he left a positive mark on both. He will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege to know him.

HONORING JOSEPH JOHN McLAIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph John McLain of Platte City, Missouri. Joseph is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph John McLain for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.